

3-17-2010

## Montana Kaimin, March 17, 2010

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www.montanakaimin.com

# Montana Kaimin

UM's Independent Campus Newspaper Since 1898 Volume CXII Issue 79 Wednesday, March 17, 2010

## Fueling the fire



Greg Lindstrom/Montana Kaimin

**Dry leaves and** downed trees, such as the ones pictured here in the lower Rattlesnake area, could add extra fuel to wildland fires this summer.

### *Fire professionals and communities commemorate and await 'Big Burn'*

**Will Melton**  
Montana Kaimin

On Aug. 19, 1910, the Northwest was ablaze.

The winter had been fairly wet, but by April, the taps had turned off. Spring and summer saw a prolonged dry spell that preceded an August with the least precipitation of any month recorded.

Railroads were massive fire spreaders, with coal- and wood-burning engines throwing embers to spark fire-hungry weeds and grasses that lined the rails.

In early July, fires started popping up. By mid-August, fires spread up and down the Northern Rockies. Crews were exhausted and tapped out, just trying to keep up.

Then, on Aug. 20, the winds came.

Over the next two days, 3 million acres in Idaho and Montana burned, consuming firefighters, logging and mining camps and towns. By Aug. 23, the fires had burned an area nearly the size of Connecticut, making it the largest in recorded U.S. history.

This summer, western Montana and northern Idaho will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the "Big Burn" with conferences and museum exhibits. At the same time, fire professionals around the region are considering the possibility of an equally big event in the years to come.

University of Montana professor Ronald Wakimoto, who has studied wildland fire behavior for 34 years, says "the gun is pointed at us in the Northern Rockies"

**See BURN, page 12**

## ASUM to consider expanding student fee

**Jayme Fraser**  
Montana Kaimin

Some part-time students might be charged a new fee beginning this fall to offset increasing repair costs for ASUM's Office of Transportation, which runs the University's Park-N-Ride services.

Transportation director Nancy Wilson and ASUM Senator Patrick Rhea will ask the student senate Wednesday night to support expanding the \$26 per semester transportation fee to include people taking less than seven credits.

"We expect to raise just short of \$40,000 next year," said Rhea, who serves on the ASUM Transportation Board. "This is what we need to stay afloat. We spent \$27,000 on repairs last month."

The Office of Transportation will roll over only \$20,000 into the next fiscal year, which starts July 1, Rhea said. He said it usually has \$80,000 each year to cover unpredictable expenses such as repairs or increased gas payments.

Rhea said President George Dennison has agreed to help ASUM Transportation receive approval from the Board of Regents, which governs all Montana colleges, despite the practice of modifying student fees only every two years.

Also, Rhea, Wilson and other transportation representatives will be asking the senate to fund the purchase of two more buses, which were selected during a recent out-of-state trip to a used dealer.

ASUM President Matt Fennell said the Transportation Board hoped the new buses would replace old ones requiring increasingly expensive repairs, although they might still be needed since ridership has also increased.

Fennell said he supports the fee expansion as a solution to increased costs.

"It's an issue of equity in saying that we are providing a service to all members of the university community but only make a target population pay for it," Fennell said. "If we expect to meet the demands of students, we do need to expand it."

Senator Will Selph said he would like the Office of Transportation to consider the effects of such an increase as part of its request Wednesday.

**See ASUM, page 11**

## Panel reflects uncertainty about right-to-die ruling

**Kimball Bennion**  
Montana Kaimin

Only a few months after a landmark decision on the right to die by the Montana Supreme Court, many Montanans are left wondering where to go from here.

A panel discussion Tuesday on the decision of *Baxter v. Montana*, which states that doctors who help terminally-ill patients die cannot be criminally prosecuted, demonstrated that uncertainty. Members representing the medical, legislative and advocacy fields debated key questions that continue to

linger after the court's December 2009 ruling.

The decision upheld the abstract right-to-die for mentally competent adult patients with terminal illness, but the court shied away from establishing the constitutionality of that right, essentially leaving its legality on the doorstep of the state legislature.

Panelist Mark Connell, who argued for the plaintiff in the case, said that since the Court didn't decide the case on constitutional grounds, the future of the right-to-die issue in Montana is still unclear.

"That means it's going to be an interesting legislature coming up," Connell said.

Two Montana state legislators on the panel, Dick Barrett and Michael More, each discussed how they think the legislature should handle this issue when its next session begins in January.

Barrett is a Democrat who represents the 93rd House District, which includes the University of Montana and some surrounding neighborhoods. Pointing to the fact that Montana allows patients to refuse treatment, to refuse food until starvation and to request

lethal doses of pain sedatives, Barrett said it would be incongruous not to allow terminally-ill patients to request a lethal prescription from their doctors.

"We should go beyond criminalizing it and provide protection and regulation," Barrett said.

More, a Republican, said the court's decision left it to the legislative branch to decide a huge philosophical issue. More, who represents the 70th House District, evoked his own beliefs as a Roman Catholic, saying that he didn't speak for the church or his

**See RIGHT, page 11**



## EDITORIAL



Laura Lundquist,  
News Editor

Some Montanans consider the University of Montana to be liberal. But everything is relative. On the political ideology spectrum, UM is to the right of some colleges. That's partly because the UM faculty, with a few exceptions, are relatively conservative when it comes to speaking out or questioning the status quo, and their ambivalence won't help students become effective leaders of tomorrow.

On March 11, the Kaimin published a letter from French language professor Michel Valentin questioning the Student Assault Resource Center's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event. The fundraiser had male students race in women's high heels to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault. Valentin claimed that the event bordered on sensationalism with perverted overtones, and that by putting men in high heels,

# Professors have a responsibility to lead by questioning

SARC was actually perpetuating sexual stereotypes.

Some were angered that Valentin would question the event; it's for a good cause, after all. So most would dismiss his arguments as a minority view, but that doesn't mean he shouldn't raise them. While he may have blown some aspects out of proportion, he supported his arguments with examples from his area of expertise, providing some education. And he presented the student body, not just his classes, with things to ponder. Few professors lay it out there like Valentin did, but more should.

A person's college years can be a time of marked philosophical change. Finally away from the influence of their parents, students can explore alternative ideas to judge for themselves what is best. First, they must learn not to fear foreign ideas. But if professors shy away from controversy, how can students learn that it's OK to consider competing ideas? That's just professors playing it safe, and students already know how to do that.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, universities were alive with students questioning many norms:

the draft, racism, sexism and corporate control. One could argue that massive Vietnam War protests were motivated more by anger about the draft than by altruistic concern about Vietnamese self-determination. But whatever prodded the collective consciousness to question, some professors stepped forward to provide students with justification and support. For example, in 1965, the University of North Carolina Committee of Faculty Concerned about the War helped organize campus participation in a national teach-in about Vietnam. The following year, Binghamton University professor Robert Sterling and nearly 200 students and faculty had daily sit-ins to mourn the war dead.

Sterling and other professors could make strong statements and take unpopular action without fear of repercussions because of tenure. But tenure wasn't created just for job security; it was developed to protect academic freedom. It acknowledges that, of all people, academics should push boundaries, whether in research or discourse. That is what makes universities vigorous, and the faltering of such energy at

today's universities is one reason they are falling behind.

New York University president John Sexton recently told journalist Bill Moyers that Americans are developing "allergies to thought," because many issues we're facing are complex. So people pull back and listen only to those who are likely to say what they want to hear. Sexton said universities may be the last hope for countering this because "the aim of liberal education is not to guard [students'] sensitivities, but to teach them to listen to diverse opinions and fortify them to respond with better arguments to those with whom they disagree..."

But that won't happen if professors just plod through their lessons without addressing controversial subjects. That's not to say that every professor has to bang a drum about something. But they should not avoid raising issues they're concerned about, even those outside their area of study. They should seize such opportunities and help students learn to reverse America's trend toward polarization.

Some do. Even law professor Kristen Juras' opposition to the Kaimin sex column last

year had the effect of raising student awareness of the freedom of speech. But questioning isn't enough. Some challenge just to be argumentative while others are motivated by selfish reasons. So questioning should be accompanied by analysis and comparison of ideas. Professors should be willing to do this; their tenure almost obligates them to do so. Democracy certainly depends on it.

Professors who confront issues beyond their classrooms, such as Steve Running and Garry Kerr, should be commended. And it's not surprising that these professors are popular. They deviate from their planned lectures, entering into passionate diatribes in hopes of enlightening students, whether the subject is related or not. In such instances, some students (if they're listening) squirm uncomfortably in their seats and exchange anxious glances, especially if an idea sounds a little radical — evidence that they are not used to hearing anything other than the mundane and the comfortable. But they should stop worrying because that's what college, and life, is about: exposure to ideas.

[laura.lundquist@umontana.edu](mailto:laura.lundquist@umontana.edu)

If any member of a band knows how to pimp a MySpace page and shamelessly promote the band with blogs and Twitter accounts, then the group has a shot at finding a level of success. Digital media has allowed the indie rock genre to be inundated with a new band every second, and the music industry has popularized music festivals in an attempt to store it all.

So most festivals end up being a parade of overly-experimental, under-practiced and downright middle-of-the-road generic indie rock. But, in the midst of the sheer number of bands festivals invite, there are always gems.

If anyone got it right, it's the organizers of the South By Southwest festival in Austin, Texas.

The model for SXSW is just to shove as many bands into downtown Austin for two weeks in March so that, after the cocktail of poorly produced hip-hop, lo-fi chick rock and high-angst metal, one successful discovery will have been squeezed out.

That will inevitably be the duo Broken Bells, which features The Shins' front man, James Mercer, and Gnarl's Barkley's better half, Danger Mouse. It sounds like a

weird combination, and in fact, it is. But somehow, the end product makes perfect sense.

Only a month after SXSW, Coachella will open its doors to a crowd that wants desperately to hear the next indie band of the month. If they feel like hearing a band with actual musical merit, they should wait it out until Local Natives plays on on April 18. The band is supporting their debut album, "Gorilla Manor," and it's going to be the most alluring album of the year. Taylor Rice lays down smooth, affectionate vocals over heavily percussive alternative-country instrumentation, bringing together a catchy product that is both finished and purposefully open-ended. Nothing about this band is disappointing.

To usher in the summer, Sasquatch will pull one of the better lineups of the season into The Gorge in eastern Washington over Memorial Day weekend. The first day's schedule includes such music industry heavyweights as Vampire Weekend, My Morning Jacket, Broken Social Scene and OK Go. But one of the best bands is found at the end of the list: Freelance Whales. This band from

## The red-headed stepchild

### Indie rock festivals fill next few months

By Josh Potter



Queens sounds like they walked into a secondhand music store and used every instrument at least once. Somehow, though, their album "Weathervanes" comes out as a masterfully produced album that embraces pop music with accepting but skeptical arms. The five-piece band acts like mad scientists taking the simplest of pop songs and twisting it until it becomes more interesting, but just as endearing.

On the heels of Sasquatch, Bonnaroo lets rip a procession of some of the most easily-digested acoustic dreck ever to be played. The organizers did a good job of hiding all this between much better names like Regina Spektor, The Black Keys and Stevie Wonder, but bands like Michael Franti

and Spearhead, The John Butler Trio and (gasp) John Fogerty still sneak in there. However, somewhere in the mix is the slightly less-distributed band The National. The Brooklyn band will play just weeks after they release their album "High Violet." A few leaked singles preview an album that continues their highly sentimental and melancholy style. The band does not rely on individual members, but lets the music stand out as the sum of the band's parts. The songs from their previous album, "The Boxer," are somber, but somehow won't let you go. You feel the angst in front man Matt Berninger's deep baritone voice as he croons over the deeply affecting piano, guitar and bass lines that seem made for his provoking

lyrics. If you're not immediately pulled in, you have no heart or soul, because The National is simply all heart and soul.

The last festival is the ever-successful Lollapalooza that generally has a good history of both headliners and smaller acts. Since Jane's Addiction's front man Perry Ferrel created it in the mid-'90s, how could anyone expect anything else? Yet no matter how tight-lipped promoters are about the currently unreleased lineup this year, rumors have surfaced about Lady Gaga and Green Day headlining. I just hope Ferrel's personal rumors make sure that even fans of Lady Gaga or Green Day feel unwelcome at Lollapalooza.

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# Montana Kaimin

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Wednesday, March 17, 2010

## It's Time for Grizzly Football to Go Big-Time

University of Montana athletic director Jim O'Day should move aggressively to take Grizzly athletics to the Western Athletic Conference (WAC). UM is already NCAA Division I in all sports except football, so football would be the only sport having to add scholarships and an assistant coach.

Two of the criteria for moving up to FBS (formerly IA) in football are home attendance of 17,500 per game and having 16 sports instead of 14. UM averages nearly 25,000 per home game and could add women's softball and gymnastics at low cost. Those types of sports cost about \$400,000 per year to

## Letters to the Editor

run and each home football game profits more than that.

There are many tremendous benefits for moving to the big-time. In the WAC, Grizzly fans would see three of their former Big Sky foes – Boise State, Nevada-Reno and Idaho. Next to Montana State, they were our biggest opponents. That's a lot better than playing teams like Sacramento State.

Marshall has done well, winning several bowl games since they moved up 12 years ago.

Nevada has won bowl games and has had home games with Northwestern, Texas Tech and Colorado State. Boise State has had more success than any major team over the last 10 years. They beat TCU and Oklahoma in recent Fiesta Bowl games in front of 73,000 fans. They've been on national TV many times, which helps with recruiting athletes and with donations for both athletics and academics. Montana Grizzly football could do the same.

I hope Jim O'Day will move on this soon. Montana-Oklahoma has a nice ring to it.

Dave Johnson,  
UM alum,  
Spokane, Wash.

Check out Kaimin reporters Justin Franz and Tyson Alger as they deal with March Madness.



Watch the multimedia version of Around the Oval at [www.montanakaimin.com](http://www.montanakaimin.com).

## Around the Oval

Based only on mascots, which team would you pick to win the NCAA tournament?



JJ Blood,  
graduate student

"I'm going to pick West Virginia because I like their coach."

"Well there's UNLV, they're the Camels, right? ... Oh no, they're the Rebels. Well, that's boring."



Ryan Cole, junior



Cody Johnson, junior

"...back to Syracuse, they're the Orangemen. It's a big giant orange. Are you going to mess with that?"

"Montana ... they're the best mascot ever."



Chelsea Carl,  
sophomore

FOR RELEASE MARCH 17, 2010

## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

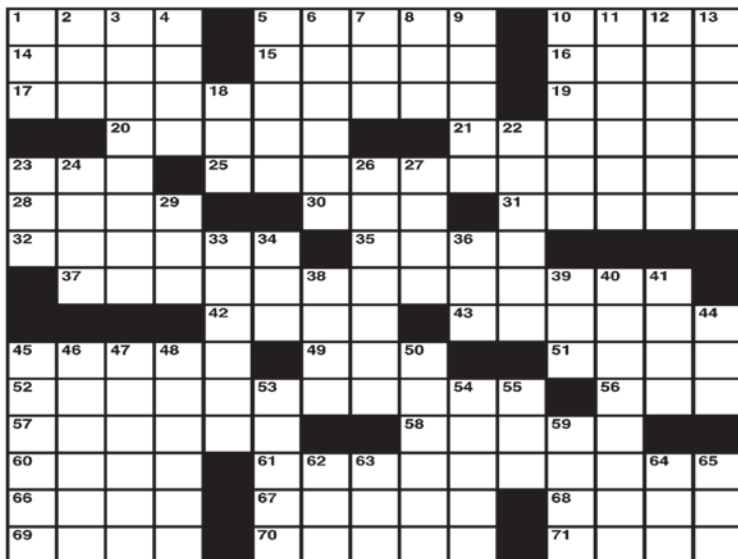
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- 1 Repairs with thread
- 5 Burning
- 10 Part of C.W. Post: Abbr.
- 14 BCS org.
- 15 Tot watchers' nicknames
- 16 Muscle quality
- 17 "Unbelievable!"
- 19 Radio toggle switch
- 20 What you can't have success without?
- 21 Abate
- 23 La Méditerranée, e.g.
- 25 \*Knitting aid, in a way
- 28 "Born Free" lioness
- 30 Record book
- 31 Evaluates
- 32 Adopt, as a stray
- 35 Cosmetic surgery, for short
- 37 \*Office component
- 42 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_ Love"
- 43 Like angry bees
- 45 Highway with a terminus at Dawson Creek, British Columbia
- 49 Night sch. course
- 51 Give off
- 52 \*Legendary archer
- 56 Evian, for one
- 57 Each
- 58 Japanese-American
- 60 Almond \_\_\_: crunchy candy
- 61 \*Cartoon beeper
- 66 Reactions to no-brainers
- 67 "Coffee \_\_\_?"
- 68 Nevada neighbor
- 69 Renege on a dele?
- 70 Oracles
- 71 Links warning, and a prefix with the second word of the answers to starred clues

### DOWN

- 1 \_\_\_-Cat
- 2 Old French coin



By Mike Peluso

3/17/10

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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3/17/10

- 3 Wakeboard relative
- 4 Exams for srs.
- 5 Yosemite photographer
- 6 '60s-'70s Saudi king
- 7 Having one sharp, musically
- 8 Cry of support
- 9 Competitor of Helena and Coco
- 10 Mississippi River source
- 11 Vegan's credo
- 12 Add, as if by pouring
- 13 Plays the siren
- 18 Cleopatra's undoing
- 22 Equipment for 52-Across
- 23 Came across
- 24 Jack of Westerns
- 26 Recital performer
- 27 Pre-weekend "Phew!"
- 29 Cold War agcy.
- 33 Like some unexpected endings
- 34 Lille denial

- 36 Home-school link: Abbr.
- 38 Appear to be
- 39 Have debts
- 40 Collides with
- 41 Leak
- 44 Beantown transit syst.
- 45 Oscars and such
- 46 Curl around the edge of the hole without going in, in golf
- 47 Stale expression

- 48 Blue Jays' div.
- 50 Bank, often
- 53 Houston hockey team
- 54 Turkish money
- 55 Sch. with a Shreveport campus
- 59 Ample, slangily
- 62 Pay dirt
- 63 Had
- 64 Auditory organ
- 65 Scoreboard letters

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### Forest Jobs and Recreation Act offers opportunity to restore and protect state lands

Montana is poised to designate its first new Wilderness in nearly 30 years — longer than most students, myself included, have been alive — and yet our relentless pursuit of perfection (as if there ever were a “pure” Wilderness bill) has blinded us to the gift that’s dangling before our eyes: a rare opportunity to protect and restore some of our state’s most treasured landscapes.

Senator Tester’s Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (FJRA) will enter the books as a case study in proactive collaboration, and I’m proud to intern for one of the many forward-thinking conservation organizations that helped shape this legislation’s details from the beginning. Established in 1958, the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) helped pass the 1964 Wilderness Act itself, playing a leading role in guiding the future of land preservation in Montana and across the US. In subsequent years, it has been instrumental in

designating every Wilderness Area in our state.

Now, 52 years since its inception and 27 years into Montana’s Wilderness drought, MWA is pushing the envelope once more, breaking through the gridlock in public lands management that has left our wildlands without due protection, and which has contributed to the near collapse of our timber economy.

MWA has hardly acted alone. Numerous conservation organizations, including Trout Unlimited, the National Wildlife Federation, the Wilderness Society, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and many others, have made the conscious decision to move beyond the ideologically driven debates of yester-year, and have joined the timber industry and motorized recreation groups to back Senator Tester’s bill. Together, they are making a decisive shift away from the era of litigation, which served as the source of so many environmental organizations’ power in recent decades (including MWA’s),

## Letters to the Editor

and towards an era of cooperation. It’s no wonder that groups which oppose the bill — and whose reputations are built on confrontation — are frightened by the prospect of change.

The conservation goals of the FJRA are considerable. All told, the bill creates 670,000 acres of Wilderness and 335,000 acres of special management areas — the vast majority of which are off-limits to resource extraction — for a total of one million acres of protected areas.

When all is said and done, we will have protected Monture and Rock Creeks and the headwaters of the Clearwater and Blackfoot Rivers, all major tributaries of the Clark Fork, and all of which help replenish our local drinking water

source, the Missoula Aquifer. We will have protected some of the best elk habitat in the Northern Rockies, including large portions of the Pioneers and the Beaverhead Range of southwest Montana. And we will have designated a long overdue Wilderness in a particularly storied corner of Montana, local author Rick Bass’s Yaak Valley.

What’s more, we will be supporting the economic bases of small towns like Seeley Lake and Deer Lodge, by ensuring that what mills remain — the ones that are proven innovators in the industry — will survive to help us manage our forests in the face of increased pine beetle outbreaks and wild-fire. Through stewardship contracts, the legislation will facilitate the removal of unnecessary Forest Service roads and replace fish-blocking culverts.

For future generations of Montanans, and the leaders of MWA, the status quo is not an option. Countless students here at UM (twenty student volunteers

gathered 1,056 signatures of support, in one week alone), along with our representatives at ASUM (who endorsed the FJRA last September), refuse to be defined by the defensive tactics of years past. Lawsuits should be one tool that we use, not *the* tool that we use to protect public lands. We see a future characterized by negotiation, and — yes — compromise. We refuse to let our rural economies go by the wayside. And we refuse to go another 30 years without any new Wilderness in Montana.

The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act represents a new direction in public lands management, and a new beginning for Wilderness designation in our state.

Let’s not wait another 30 years for this opportunity to come again.

Get involved! Please visit [www.montanaforests.org](http://www.montanaforests.org) or email me at [zachary.porter@umontana.edu](mailto:zachary.porter@umontana.edu).

*Zachary Porter,  
senior, geography,  
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The Kaimin invites letters to the editor and guest columns.

Letters should be 300 words or fewer, and columns should be about 700 words. Please e-mail both to [opinion@montanakaimin.com](mailto:opinion@montanakaimin.com), or drop them off in Don Anderson Hall 208. Make sure to include a phone number.

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# Lobos looking to eliminate Griz

Troy Warzocha  
Montana Kaimin

Fresh off their second consecutive regular season conference title and a school-record 29 victories, the New Mexico Lobos of the Mountain West Conference will take on the Big Sky champion Montana Grizzlies in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday in San Jose, Calif.

This is the first NCAA Tournament experience for the Lobos since 2005, and with a victory, New Mexico would advance to the second round of the tournament for the first time since 1999.

In a press conference on Monday, head coach Steve Alford admitted that he was slightly concerned about the Lobos' lack of tournament experience going into this week.

"I've had concerns all year about the inexperience, but I've learned to trust that just ... go and do it," Alford said. "They work so hard and they play so unselfishly that they put ourselves in a chance to win games."

New Mexico enters the tournament as the No. 3 seed in the East region after posting a 29-4 record this season.

The Lobos are content with the third seed, considering they were knocked out of the postseason conference tournament in the semifinals by San Diego State.

"I think (the No. 3 seed) was a fair call by the (tournament selection) committee," said New Mexico all-conference guard Darington Hobson. "We were hoping for a three or four seed and we got the three."

Hobson, a junior guard out of Las Vegas, Nev., was the first player in Mountain West history to earn the Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year awards in the same season.

Despite the personal accolades, Hobson said that his personal success is a testament to the team around him.

"The main thing is I wouldn't have gotten any of those awards if it wasn't for my teammates," Hobson said. "I thank them every day."

While his teammates may help, Hobson is clearly the straw that stirs the drink for the Lobos. He was the team leader in points (16.2 per game) and rebounds (9.2 per game) this season. In conference play, Hobson averaged a dou-

ble-double per game and led the conference with an average of 10.1 rebounds per game.

Hobson wasn't the only Lobo honored this season. Alford was tabbed as the conference's coach of the year and junior guard Dairese Gary was named to both the all-conference and all-defensive teams.

Alford is in his third year at New Mexico after a successful eight-year stay at Iowa. So far at New Mexico, Alford has posted a 75-25 record and won two regular season championships. At his previous job in Iowa, he led the Hawkeyes to a pair of conference tournament championships and tallied a 152-106 record.

Prior to his career in coaching, he was a star for the Indiana Hoosiers under the legendary Bobby Knight in the mid-eighties and was drafted in the second round of the 1987 NBA draft.

Almost as important as his coaching, Alford's membership on two championship basketball teams during his playing days provides the Lobos with genuine insight into big games.

Outside of being named a two-time consensus All-American, Alford was a part of the Olympic gold-medal basketball team at the 1984 games in Los Angeles, and Indiana's 1986-87 national championship team.

"(Alford) has done everything that we're trying to accomplish," Hobson said. "He knows what it takes off the court and on the court mentally and physically. He gives us a lot of knowledge and helps us out, and he's been great this year."

Gary, from Alford's home state of Indiana, proved his mettle this season as a potent scorer and playmaker. Gary's average of 14.3 points per game this season was second only to Hobson, and his assist-turnover ratio of 2.1 was good for second in the conference.

Despite all of New Mexico's awards and victories, and their lofty seed, they aren't taking the No. 14 Griz lightly.

"(Montana) is a great team," Hobson said. "You can't take a team with 22 wins lightly. This time of year, you can't take anyone lightly."

Alford has taken notice of how the Griz have handled teams from power conferences this season.

"They just seem to be playing really good basketball," Alford said. "They beat Oregon easily at



Photo by JP Gallegos  
In addition to leading scorer Darington Hobson, New Mexico relies heavily on 6-foot-6-inch forward Roman Martinez, who averaged 13.6 points per game this season. The Lobos will meet Montana Thursday night in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Oregon. They lost one possession at Washington. They lost one possession at Colorado State."

One distinct advantage that the Griz should have on the Lobos will be length in the paint. Montana's pair of big men, center Brian Qvale and forward Derek Selvig, have a significant height advantage over the Lobos. The tallest player for New Mexico is 6-foot-9-inch sophomore forward Will Brown.

But according to Hobson, height doesn't always guarantee

success on the inside. The Lobos may not have been the tallest team in the Mountain West, but they still managed to be the best rebounding team.

"It's just going to be a battle (in the paint)," Hobson said. "Both of our big men are tough and they battled guys over seven feet tall this year."

Despite their apparent size deficiency, the Lobos earned their stripes against top quality foes, going 5-0 against ranked teams. By mid-December, New Mexico

had made an impact on the polls, cracking the top 25 in week five and staying there for most of the season. In fact, until their recent loss in the conference tournament, the Lobos were riding a 15-game winning streak.

However, none of that matters now. All that matters is the next game.

"The bottom line is that there's going to be two good, well-coached teams playing for something special," Hobson said. "Anybody can beat anybody."

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## SIDELINES

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S GOLF  
**Northern Migration  
Invitational Third Round**  
(Florence, Ariz.), Today

MEN'S BASKETBALL  
NCAA TOURNAMENT  
(San Jose, Calif.)  
**Montana vs. New Mexico**  
Thursday, 7:50 p.m. (MST) CBS

FOOTBALL  
**Intersquad scrimmage**  
Washington Grizzly Stadium  
Friday, Time TBA

### BRIEFING

#### MONTANA GOLF TIED FOR 17TH PLACE IN ARIZONA

The UM women's golf team slipped into a tie for 17th place Tuesday in the second round of the Northern Migration Invitational at the Poston Butte Golf Club in Florence, Ariz. The Griz, who were in 16th place after shooting a team 316 in Monday's first round, shot a cumulative 325 on Tuesday. Sophomore Lauren Howell led Montana Tuesday with a round of 77. After two rounds, Howell leads the club with a 158, followed by junior Rose Stepanek (160), junior Carissa Simmons (161), freshman Olivia Weber (163) and senior Jacqueline Olson (166). The third and final round will commence Wednesday morning.





**Outdoor Program kayaking** instructor Mandela van Eeden demonstrates a "seal slide," entering the water by sliding down a snow bank.

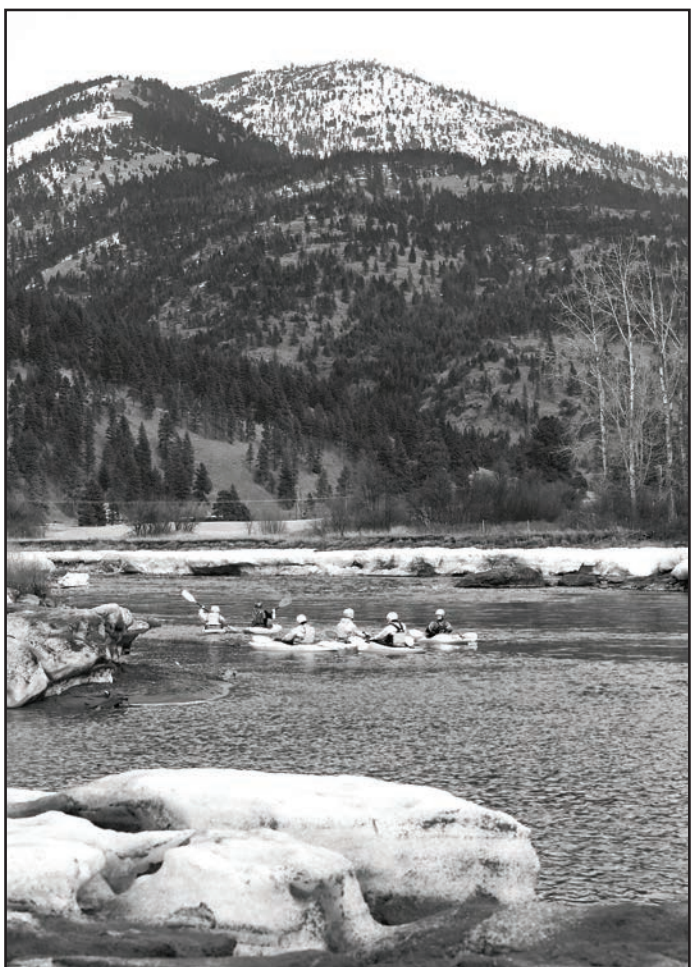
# BRAVING I

## Outdoor Program intro

Story by  
**JUSTIN  
FRANZ**



**(TOPRIGHT)** Mandela van Eeden demonstrates how students launch away from the shore.



**The kayaking class** spent its first day in the Clark Fork River on Sha Ron Eddy near East Missoula.

**I**T'S EARLY March on the Clark Fork River. The banks are still choked with ice and the massive boulders that line each side are covered in white.

Even though traces of winter remain, that doesn't mean people can't go out and enjoy the water, which is just what students in the Outdoor Program's Fundamentals of Whitewater Kayaking class are learning.

The class, available for credit or just the experience, usually consists of three days spent in the Grizzly Pool, where students learn the basics of kayaking before applying that knowledge on the Clark Fork River for two days. Some classes also take an extended trip on the Blackfoot River.

"It just looked like a lot of fun," said student David George.

George is one of four students enrolled in the class that meets every Friday afternoon, and according to program manager Elizabeth Fricke, it's one of eight classes offered during the school year.

Although kayaking has been taught for years, Fricke said the program was recently fine-tuned to offer a more complete experience.

"I think it's a really good program, starting with the fundamentals," Fricke said. "Baby steps in the pool."

Even after people know the basics, they can come back for more, Fricke said, adding that many who've taken the fundamentals class return for further instruction in kayak surfing and playboating, including a day at Brennan's Wave near Caras Park downtown.

"It gives people more experience without having to go out on their own with their own gear," Fricke said.

Not having to rent or buy equipment is one major plus since kayaking students can use kayaks, skirts, helmets and wet suits owned by the Outdoor Program.

George and the three other students loaded their equipment under the watchful eyes of kayaking instructors Cindy Leary and Mandela van Eeden as they prepared for their first trip on the Clark Fork River on Friday afternoon.

Both Leary and van Eeden have taken subsequent advanced courses.

"Our goal is to make people as comfortable as possible," Leary said, as the students piled in. The river was filled to the brim with kayakers and gear.

Van Eeden drove the van to a small access point near the Sha Ron Eddy in the van before donning their life jacket.

"I think you learn a lot in a kayak class," Leary said. "It's a team effort."

With everyone geared up, van Eeden also known as the bottom of her kayak, sat atop the eddy and the river. Sitting atop her kayak, she expected to see what to expect in the water.

"We're going to learn about different types of water," she said.

Getting in and out of moving water — would be the main goal.

Next, Leary emphasized safety on the river.

"Creating a safe environment is the most important thing," Leary said. "It's possible that one of the things you do because that's a great lesson."

Granted, being upside-down seemed like a great lesson. It would be just the thing people would expect for a "t-rescue" (a two-person rescue).

**(FROM LEFT)** Instructor Mandela van Eeden watches Marissa Becker's form as the pair practices ferrying across the Clark Fork River.





# ICY WATERS

## uces students to kayaking



Photos by  
**GREG  
LINDSTROM**



**(FROM LEFT) Marissa Becker and** Mandela van Eeden blow up float bags in a kayak before going out on the water. The tubes add buoyancy to the kayaks, keeping them afloat in the event of a flip.

strates the signal for "Are you OK?" before the

taken the class and began teaching after  
comfortable as they can be underwater,"  
into a green University of Montana van  
ear.

small parking lot that serves as a fishing  
in East Missoula. The students unloaded  
ets and wet suits.

king class because you're pushing your  
-building experience as well."

den invited the students to her "office,"  
ak, complete with a hand-drawn map of  
er orange boat, van Eeden told students

rent features on the river and how to get  
l.

er, or an eddy — a pocket of slow or still  
lesson of the day.

n the water.

he most important thing for you and us,"  
f us, or all of us, will flip over, and we  
arning experience. Just don't panic."

ems like a scenario where panicking  
ld do. But both instructors said waiting  
e procedure) would be better than doing

a water exit, because students just end up getting soaked — the last thing people want in early March.

With the talking completed, the students shouldered their boats and headed for the water.

"I'm really hoping I don't roll," said one student as he walked along the banks over massive chunks of ice.

Once in the water, the first lesson was how to get in and out of faster currents without being caught by the current and flipped.

"Remember that two-o'clock angle," Leary yelled over the rushing water. "Get out there fast, be aggressive, and lastly, don't forget that tilt."

With each successful attempt, the two instructors yelled their approval.

Next, the students learned to ferry across a river, a move that requires a boater to remain at a specific angle and go directly across the moving current.

George was one of the first students to attempt it, and as he succeeded, he smiled.

For van Eeden, this is the stuff she loves. When she first started kayaking, she was envious of guides and instructors who were able to call kayaking a job.

"I couldn't believe that river guides got paid to do what they do," van Eeden said.

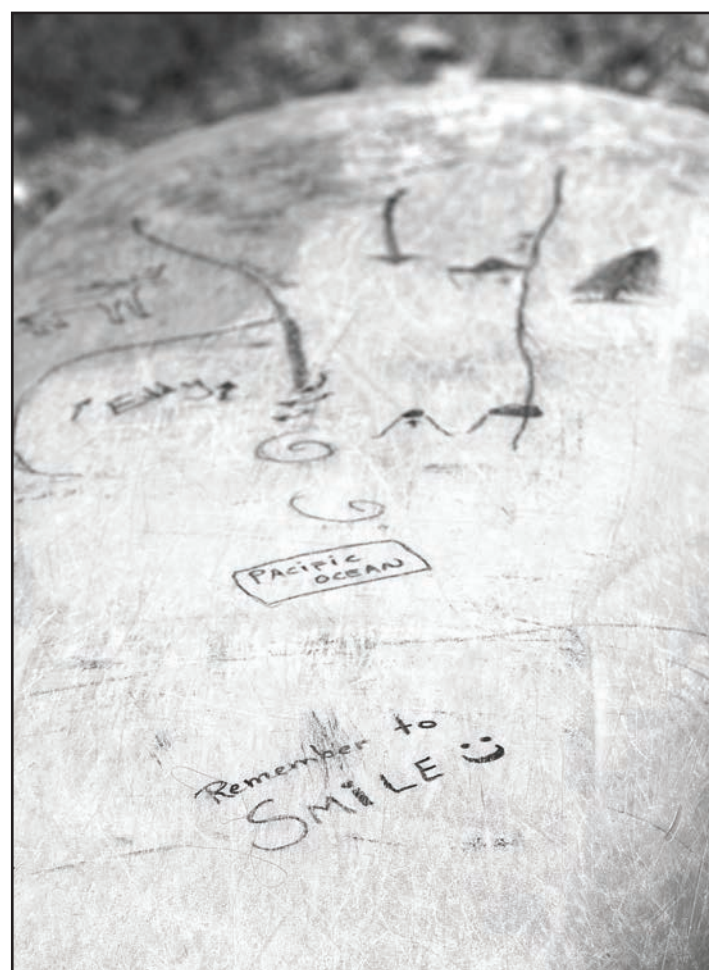
Van Eeden took her first class in 2006 and has been hooked on the sport ever since. She said being able to teach kayaking has been a great skill.

"Even if it isn't in a university setting, you can take your friends out and teach them," van Eeden said.

But regardless of the student, van Eeden said what matters most is enjoyment.

"Most important is to make sure that they have a good time on the river," van Eeden said.

If the look on the students' faces as they packed up their gear was any indication, van Eeden and Leary succeeded.



**Before hitting the water,** instructors went over what to expect on the river, such as currents, wildlife, rocks and fellow kayakers. A reminder to smile was drawn on the bottom of Mandela van Eeden's kayak.

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**David George fights** the current as he paddles out from an eddy. George was the only participant to flip his kayak during the instruction.



# Strong pitchers to lead Griz on diamond

Tyson Alger  
Montana Kaimin

Baseball and spring often go hand in hand. Whenever March rolls around, professional baseball players awaken from their winter slumber, grab some sunscreen and head somewhere warm for a month's worth of training and exhibition games.

This is nice for the professionals, but for the amateurs such as the Montana club baseball team, spring means games, real games, and forget the aspect of warm.

The Griz recently returned home from Boise, Idaho, where the team braved snow and a strong Boise State team to come away with a three-game sweep.

Montana beat the Broncos in a 10-inning thriller on Saturday, scoring six runs in the top of the final frame to win 13-7.

In a Sunday double-header, the Griz rattled off wins of 10-8 and 8-2 to cap the weekend.

Starting out the season with three straight wins against a team like Boise State was a slight surprise for head coach Ryan Sharkey, although not totally unexpected.

"We had some pretty high expectations coming into the season," Sharkey said. "We worked our butts off all winter, which we generally don't do."

The winter workouts are just one of many changes implemented since Sharkey became head coach three-quarters of the way through last season.



Ben Coulter/Montana Kaimin

**Pitcher Steve Franklin** throws a pitch during the UM baseball club's practice Tuesday afternoon at Ogren Park at Allegiance Field. The team started the season by winning their first three games on the road against Boise State last weekend.

Junior utility player Brice Hattel said organization has been a key to the early success of the club team.

"The team this year is just way more structured," Hattel said. "We've really turned it around from last season. Hopefully we'll be able to secure a top-10 ranking this year, especially after the Boise games."

The Griz play in the Northern

Pacific division of the National Club Baseball Association.

A record number of players showed up for fall tryouts this season, with around 75 players fighting for positions, Sharkey said.

After cuts were made, Sharkey kept 25 men on the roster. On the forefront of that roster is a strong pitching core.

In past seasons, the Griz would have maybe two or three starting

pitchers, Sharkey said. This year, at least 12 pitchers are competing for four to five starting spots, he said.

"Our depth at pitching is by far our strongest point," Sharkey said.

The Grizzlies have already seen the positive effects of their pitching depth, as senior Buddy Holcomb pitched a complete game three-hitter in Montana's 8-2 win over Boise.

The depth on the mound will only continue to get deeper.

Potentially one of Montana's best pitchers is Griz basketball player Michael Taylor.

Taylor hasn't played yet for the club team because the basketball season has been extended to the NCAA tournament, but Sharkey said Taylor has quite the arm on the diamond.

"He's probably our hardest and most accurate thrower," Sharkey said.

The Griz aren't too shabby on the offensive side, either. Senior centerfielder Jeff Fritchman and junior infielder Cody Anderson lead the charge at the plate.

Over the weekend, Fritchman blasted two home runs, while Anderson added one of his own en route to providing a 4-6, six-RBI effort in Montana's extra-inning win.

"I would say those two guys probably had 15 of our 32 RBIs from the weekend," Sharkey said.

Montana has this weekend off and will spend spring break on an eight-game road trip through Utah

and Arizona.

The Griz will return home in mid-April for a home series against Montana State, which will be played at Ogren Park, home of the Missoula Osprey, the local minor league baseball team. The facility will host all of Montana's home games.

Playing at Ogren Park will be a step up for the Griz, as in past seasons the team hosted foes at the local legion field.

"It's going to be great," Hattel said. "We probably have the best park to play in. To go from an old legion field to having an actual stadium for ourselves is pretty exciting."

The baseball team used to play at Ogren Park, but a series of unpaid debts ended that run.

Sharkey said the team made up for the debts this fall in order to secure playing privileges at the park.

"I met with the GM of the Osprey, and it turned out we had like an \$800 debt," Sharkey said. "So I talked him down a bit, and we had like 30 guys come in and do work around the stadium to pay it off."

Sharkey said the opportunity to play at Ogren Park will be perfect for this season.

"It's just a great stadium," he said. "It's a good location for college students and it's just great for fans to come watch."

And with the way Montana has opened its season, the Griz plan on being great for fans to watch, regardless of the field on which they play.

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## OUTDOORS NEWS BRIEF

### Pine beetles continue to persist at Lubrecht

Jessica Stugelmayer  
Montana Kaimin

Although time is said to be the healer of all things, it doesn't hold true in the case of the pine beetle infestation of the Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

In the past five months, the pine beetles in the Lubrecht Experimental Forest have gotten worse, and according to forest manager Frank Maus, the situation is expected to stay that way.

"I don't think we'll see declines in the (pine beetle) population," Maus said.

He said forest workers are not finding any mortality amongst the larvae living in the trees. He said that a "good, cold winter" is the best way to knock the beetles out, but the region didn't get one this year.

These beetles attack primarily Ponderosa, Lodgepole, Whitebark, Scots and Limber pine trees.

The method for fighting the infestation has been to cut down infested trees and send them to local mills to be processed. Maus said as soon as the forest becomes dry enough to work in again, workers will continue this procedure.

Maus said he also plans to spray trees in Lubrecht with a mixture called "Carbaryl," a chemical applied to the outer bark of the tree that kills the pine beetle.

He said he's not too hopeful about getting rid of them completely.

"I don't know whether or not we have the capability of doing that," Maus said.

He said warmer summers have allowed additional migrations of beetles, leading to more than one attack on trees. He said the historical behavior of the pine beetle is to have one to two flights in early summer. But now, he is seeing flights later into July and August.

Recent developments in the struggle against the beetles by scientists in Colorado have raised both hopes and doubts. A solution called "Chitosan," which is made out of crustacean exoskeletons, could be used to counter the beetle epidemic.

Maus said Lubrecht staff will continue to experiment with methods to eradicate the beetles this summer, but he doesn't think anything will make an impact until Montana gets a winter with lower temperatures.



Eric Oravsky/Montana Kaimin

Kyle McCann and Edge of the World owner Jake Barrow discuss their ideas for a permanent snow park at Snowbowl and the problems they have had getting it started.

## Out in the cold

### Battle of the Bowl takes on a whole new meaning

Neil LaRubbio  
Montana Kaimin

When the ski slopes turn to sludge and snowboarders are shredding through ice with their shirts off, it means the ski season is coming to a close.

At Montana Snowbowl, two end-of-season events ensure that skiers and snowboarders have plenty to debate and consider until next season.

The final installment of Greg Janecky's experimental Backwoods Terrain Park Project will coincide with this year's annual Best of the Bowl, a slalom race "with style" coordinated by Karl Pare.

Major televised events like the X-Games and the Winter Olympics increased the popularity of freestyle skiing, but some local skiers and snowboarders view Snowbowl as behind the times.

Janecky, 21, may be the one to change that opinion.

This year, Janecky and the Backwoods Project built custom snow parks over two weekends at Snowbowl. The entire experience has been positive, he said. People that don't regularly "ride park" were trying it out. Janecky also said he's had an open dialogue with Brad Morris, president of Snowbowl, about the possibilities of a permanent snow park.

Morris said a few factors have inhibited Snowbowl from authorizing a permanent snow park in the past. Previous proposals were unorganized and, since the work depends on volunteer efforts, the parks become dangerous without

proper maintenance. The Backwoods Project hopes to prove otherwise.

"Terrain parks take a lot of work to be safe, and this is a group that has stepped up to do that," Morris said.

Morris said Snowbowl was the first ski area to allow snowboarders on the slopes in the state of Montana. However, Morris isn't convinced that a snow park will enhance his ski area. There are enough natural features on the

run, the Grizzly Face, during this year's Best of the Bowl.

Morris said Snowbowl isn't focused on attracting clientele from around the country with a snow park. He cited other ski areas, such as Bridger Bowl and Discovery, that are similar to Snowbowl and don't maintain a permanent snow park.

Janecky coaches a trampoline program for freestyle skiers and snowboarders at Bitterroot Gymnastics in Missoula. He also

and skate shop Edge of the World, is collecting a stack of questionnaires to prove that Snowbowl would benefit from a permanent snow park.

"We have moms coming in every weekend ... and they're like, 'It'd be really cool if all we had to do was go up to Snowbowl and have a park there because that's all my kids want to do,'" Barrow said.

Barrow and his crew have built snow parks at Snowbowl in the past. Edge of the World sponsors the annual Snowboard Jam, which includes different park terrain features like rails and jumps. But Barrow said he never has any commitment from Snowbowl, so their park always ends up plowed over by Snowcat snowmobiles. Without Morris' support, a snow park at Snowbowl doesn't stand a chance, Barrow said.

Lost Trail Powder Mountain in the Bitterroot valley has maintained a snow park for six years. Andrew Schulz manages the park. With support from general manager Scott Grasser, Schulz is a paid employee who, along with two other permanent crewmembers and two volunteers, works on the park's design and keeps it safe. The first two years of the park's existence were rough, Schulz said. They had to prove to the owners that the park would be attractive to business.

"We had one run with a rope tow, and we had a bunch of rails and jumps, and that was a huge success; put out the ski school kids' learning and it's expanded from there," Schulz said.

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*"We're focused on local kids. I've coached some really, really talented kids in Missoula who have not gotten anywhere."*

Greg Janecky, Backwoods Project

mountain to make the experience at Snowbowl unique, and when it snows, people aren't interested in a snow park, he said.

"There's definitely people that use it," Morris said. "Whether they'd be there otherwise, I don't know."

Karl Pare, coordinator for Best of the Bowl, is neutral on the matter. He said if the Backwoods Project is successful, he will be impressed, but he isn't concerned either way.

Alpine, telemark and snowboard racers will shoot Snowbowl's signature black diamond

coaches a summer program at Mount Hood in Oregon. He said his work on ski and skate parks in New Mexico and Colorado prepared him to face the challenges of organizing a snow park at Snowbowl.

"Backwoods isn't nationally focused either," Janecky said. "We're focused on local kids. I've coached some really, really talented kids in Missoula who have not gotten anywhere."

A snow park at Snowbowl would help Missoula compete better in regional contests, he said.

Jake Barrow, owner of local ski



## A 'glass' act



**Hanna Hannan (right)**, founder and director of the nonprofit Zootown Arts Community Center, shows a jar of glass shards to Eli Suzukovich (top left) and Jeni Eggebrecht (bottom left) during a basic glass fusion class. The ZACC started in 2007, although it didn't move into its north side building until 2008. The building, which once served as a farmers' market, now houses supplies, classes and displays for the Missoula community.

Kat Franchino/Montana Kaimin



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**MARCH 15-19, 2010**

**See table in UC for more information.  
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## SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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**Level:**

**1 2**  
**3 4**

Complete the grid so  
each row, column and  
3-by-3 box (in bold  
borders) contains  
every digit, 1 to 9. For  
strategies on how to  
solve Sudoku, visit  
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**SOLUTION TO  
TUESDAY'S PUZZLE**

1	7	6	9	5	8	4	2	3
8	4	9	2	7	3	6	5	1
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3	9	4	8	1	6	5	7	2
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## Fundraiser participants lose weight to gain money

Jessica Whalen  
Montana Kaimin

Two months after a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, people are still looking for ways to help the more than 500,000 displaced inhabitants. But a fundraiser planned by University of Montana's Exercise Science Student Association (UMESSA) will benefit more than the Haitian relief effort.

Inspired by NBC's reality

weight loss show, "The Biggest Loser," UMESSA hopes to raise money for Haiti by getting students physically involved in the donation process. Every person who signs up for the fundraising program gets a free underwater weighing in the McGill Hall exercise lab before embarking on a six-week sponsored health program. According to exercise science students Mollie Riordan and Allison

Betts, students can ask people to pledge a dollar for every pound they lose before the final May 4 weigh-in.

And the fundraiser isn't just about weight loss. Riordan and Betts hope that sponsorship for a good cause coupled with skin-baring mile-marks like spring break will inspire students to live healthier lifestyles.

"We had the idea of doing

something similar to 'The Biggest Loser,' but we wanted to focus on health and nutrition more than weight loss," Betts said.

After the month-and-a-half sponsorship program ends, final donations will be collected and sent to the Red Cross.

A sign-up sheet will be available today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a table in the UC, along with details about an upcoming

informational meeting to outline the specifics of the fundraiser. Donations will also be accepted at the table and throughout the program's six-week duration — no sweat necessary.

"The sky's the limit," Riordan said. "We just want to help as much as we can."

If you have questions, pledges or donations, contact UMESSA at [umexercisescience@gmail.com](mailto:umexercisescience@gmail.com).  
[jessica.whelen@umontana.edu](mailto:jessica.whelen@umontana.edu)

### RIGHT From page 1

constituents, but quoted church leaders by saying that human dignity cannot be conferred or taken away by the state.

"I think it'll be very challenging in the coming session to sort through this," More said.

During the time between the New Year's Eve decision and the start of the next legislative session in January, medical professionals will be facing lots of uncertainty as well.

Stephen Speckart, a retired oncologist who was one of the plaintiffs in *Baxter v. Montana*, also participated in the panel. He said doctors are getting many requests from patients to aid in their deaths but have no guidelines to follow, and that leads to a lot of uncertainty.

"It is imperative that the legislature move forward in this," Speckart said.

But some on the panel weren't as ready for that. Eric Kress, a hospice physician, said this decision has made it very difficult for hospice care workers to assess what their jobs will be like in the future. Kress worries that patients will request aid in death from hospice workers, which, he said, is not what hospice care is meant to provide. Most patients under hospice care receive palliative treatment, a type of care that aims to reduce symptoms and pain from a disease, but not cure the disease itself. Many terminally ill patients at the end of life receive hospice treatment.

Kress said he does not want to be in the position of having to deny a patient who may need palliative care because they want assistance in dying instead.

"We're a little bit nervous about it because we're scared that we would not be able to serve people," Kress said.

One of the controversies surrounding legal guidelines for aid in dying is the potential for abuse cited by its critics. Panelist Bernadette Franks-Ongoy, the executive director of Disability Rights Montana, said that terminal illness is not easy to determine, and people with disabilities can often be prematurely diagnosed. Franks-Ongoy said there were 11 cases that her organization knew of in which all but one of the terminal prognoses of disabled patients were later found to be premature. These premature diagnoses can come from the fact that quality of life in the eyes of patients may not always be consistent with quality of life in the eyes of doctors.

"Some of you may say, 'If I get in a car accident and can't walk, I don't want to live that way,'" Franks-Ongoy said. "There are many people who live that way, and they have quality of life."

Speckart argued that Franks-Ongoy and Kress's concerns were valid, but they could easily be addressed in legislation.

Arguments such as these will likely spark public debate leading up to next January, when the legislature will have many questions to face. But panelist Mary Anne Sladich-Lantz, a member of St. Patrick's Hospital's ethics committee, said discussions such as last night's were a good thing, showing that this issue is far from black-and-white.

While she can state the official rules and guidelines for the Catholic hospital she represents, Sladich-Lantz said it's more complicated for her personally.

"There's so much more inner conflict beyond just what the laws are," Sladich-Lantz said.

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### ASUM From page 1

"When you start getting into lower credits, you are getting into non-traditional students that are working on a few credits for graduate degrees or are taking classes online," Selph said.

Wilson said ASUM Transportation would do its best to exclude student teachers and distance-learning students from the proposed change, although she could not make any guarantees yet.

In other business, Rhea and Climate Action Now President Zack Porter will introduce a resolution asking the senate to write

letters to Montana's congressional delegation and Dennison in support of President Barack Obama's "RE-ENERGYSE" initiative.

The Regaining Our Energy Science and Engineering Edge initiative proposes to invest \$74 million to fund research and education that expands opportunities and invention within the field of clean energy technology.

"Sen. Jon Tester is a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Climate Action Now is having a meeting with his staff on Friday to discuss this very topic," Rhea said. "It would be great if they could hand him a

copy of this resolution and a letter of support from ASUM."

Selph, as chair of the Elections Committee, will also brief the senate on the upcoming ASUM elections.

The application form to run in the election and petitions to be added to the ballot are now available in ASUM's office on the first floor of the UC. Petitions must be completed and returned by March 24 at 5 p.m.

Selph encourages interested students to visit the office and speak with current senators and executives about prospective positions.

[jayme.fraser@umontana.edu](mailto:jayme.fraser@umontana.edu)

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**BURN***From page 1*

due to longer fire seasons caused by global warming.

He and other specialists stress that there are too many variables to know if such a major event could happen again, but they all predict high fire activity for the 2010 season.

This year, the weather is off to a bad start. Snowpack for the Missoula area sits at 51 percent of average. The mountains of northern Idaho aren't doing much better. The long-term forecast shows the region with below-average precipitation and above-average temperatures through at least September.

Patti Koppenol, the director of fire, aviation and air management for the Forest Service's Northern Rockies Coordinating Group, stressed that snowpack is not necessarily a strong predictor of an active fire season and people can't know what a season will look like until later in the year. The standard line for fire scientists is, "Come

see me in June."

Carl Seielstad, the interim director of fire management for the National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis at the University of Montana, pointed out that in western Montana, the wettest months are May and June. So until Montana's wet season has passed, neither he nor any other fire predictors are willing to make any definitive predictions.

That said, he and Wakimoto both agree that this year's forecast doesn't look good.

Seielstad also said there hasn't been a major dry wind event in the region in decades. He said the 2003 fires, which were considered major, were set up almost exactly like the 1910 fires before the wind came. But the weather cooperated, and the fires were eventually contained. There is no way of knowing, he said, when that kind of fluke wind will come again.

By 1910, federal forest management had existed in some form for more than 30 years, but the Forest Service had been around for only

five of those years. It was ill-prepared for a large fire, employing few men in the sparsely populated forests of the West.

Once the fires overwhelmed the few professional firefighters, forest managers called on rough-necks working in nearby mining and logging camps to try and halt the spread of the flames.

Because the fires were so massive and the crews so small, these amateurs were quickly overwhelmed. Many small towns were completely destroyed and 87 people died, among them 78 firefighters. Even larger towns, such as Wallace, Idaho, suffered major damage. A thousand refugees fled into Missoula, with more heading west to Spokane, Wash.

Professionals still worry today about a lack of manpower to fight fires in the Northern Rockies. Chief Bill Colwell of the Missoula Rural Fire Department said that, because his funding comes primarily from property taxes, he is limited in the preparations he can make.

So long as the fires remain minor, Colwell says, his department will do the best it can with the people it has.

Koppenol doesn't worry about a lack of manpower. The Forest Service has the ability to rush resources to a major fire.

"In 1910, they weren't bringing people from Florida ... from Australia," Koppenol said.

Koppenol was guardedly optimistic about the odds of preventing a major fire. She said the Forest Service has fire modeling and predictive tools to help divert resources to areas that are most likely to need them.

Colwell agrees, to a degree. He said that even if they aren't able to battle back a massive fire, they should at least have the ability to divert fires from major population centers. The problem these days, Colwell said, is the number of houses spread throughout the woods. Fire crews will work to save such houses, Colwell said, but in case of a major fire event, the only thing they can do is make

sure there is an effective evacuation plan.

The 1910 Big Burn was doused when a cold front blew in, bringing rain and effectively ending the season. Firefighters call a rain-storm that ends the fire season the "August singularity."

Unfortunately, a new study by Seielstad and Ann-Marie Hadlow, a graduate student at UM, to be published this spring shows that since 1982, the August singularity has been pushed back 15.5 days in Montana, on average.

This extension of the season, if it continues, bodes poorly for the future of fire suppression in the West. A longer season means more fires and a greater possibility that such fires will blow up into the next big burn.

There is no way of knowing whether 2010 is the year this will happen, but Colwell said no matter what happens this season, there is still a lot of fuel in the forests just waiting to burn, and when it does, "it has potential to be amazing."

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The YMCA is seeking outgoing, friendly role models that have a passion for working with youth to be summer Day Camp Counselors and KinderKub Counselors. June 14-Aug 27. YMCA summer camps offer unique opportunities for kids to explore and grow. If this sounds like the perfect summer job for you, apply at 3000 S. Russell. Closes 3/26/10 EOE.

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Hamilton Farmers Market Info Booth Staff, PT, begins March 29. Call Job Service 363-1822 for more information.

Seeking part-time educator to teach field trips at Travelers' Rest State Park in Lolo from April 1 - June 11. Must be available during school hours (8 am - 3pm) at least 15 hours per week and have reliable transportation. Education student or teaching experience strongly preferred. To apply, send letter of interest and resume to Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, P.O. Box 995, Lolo, MT 59847 or email to [mberger@travelersrest.org](mailto:mberger@travelersrest.org).

**PERSONALS**

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Stuttering Support Group for Adults. UM Speech Language and Hearing Clinic March 24th at 5:15pm (Curry Health Center-Lower Level) Contact: Chris Merriman, [Christine.merriman@umontana.edu](mailto:Christine.merriman@umontana.edu), or 243-2377.

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